GLBL 515 001 Sp20

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Office Hours: Please email for an appointment. Instructor is very flexible.

Summary

U.S. foreign policy is in transition. This process began long before President Donald J. Trump assumed office. We have moved decisively into what could be called "the post-post-Cold War" era. The global struggle between the Soviet Union and the United States ended 25 years go. But so has the "unipolar moment" that followed the Cold War, when the United States possessed unrivaled power in world affairs. The rise of China, the resurgence of Russia, and continuing turmoil in the Middle East confront U.S. policy-makers with an array of complex challenges. This course focuses on these and other issues that are shaping U.S. foreign policy today. It will include discussions of topics "ripped from the news" whether we are talking about US-Iranian conflict, the ongoing low-intensity conflict in the Ukraine, or Chinese naval actions in the South China Sea.

The objective of the course is to help students think about these challenges like U.S. policy-makers would: as elements of a broader strategy, as a series of unanticipated events that compel responses, and as occasions demanding the imperfect, sometimes cruel calculus that weighs the costs and benefits of U.S. action (and inaction). The course relies on lectures, readings, presentations, and seminar discussions to examine the real choices confronting real policy-makers. There will be strong emphasis on writing, especially pieces that will prepare students – as individuals and in teams -- to prepare recommendations to busy decision-makers (whether in government or the private sector).

The bottom line: whether students seek a career in foreign policy, hope to work in international business, or merely want to be better- informed citizens, the course will help give them the critical skills necessary to understanding U.S. foreign policy in all its complexity and contradiction.

Assessment

Leading discussions. 25 percent. Seminar members will be assigned to lead discussion of at least one text during the seminar. They should prepare a two-page summary of the piece's arguments, a critique of their cogency, and three discussion questions. The summary will be shared with the instructor and other students prior to class.

Class participation. 15 percent. Every student should read all required texts and be prepared to discuss them. The object is free give and take, with an emphasis on collegiality. Simply listening is not an option, nor is dominating discussion.

Individual assessment paper. 30 percent. Every student will prepare a 1500 word research paper on a subject to be determined with the instructor. The paper will address a foreign policy issue confronting the United States, identifying key interests, available tools, and possible obstacles.

Group policy memo/presentation. 30 percent. Each student will work in a group on a 1500 word policy memo recommending a specific course of action for U.S. policy-makers. The group will be assigned randomly. The subject will be determined with the instructor. Teams will share their memo with the instructor and other students prior to class. The teams will then present the memo.

Grading

Grade	Minimum %
A+	97
A	94
A-	90
B+	87
B	83
B-	80
C+	77
C	73
C-	70
D+	67
D	63
D-	60
F	0

Class Conduct

Absences should be reserved for genuine emergencies or unavoidable conflicts of interest. If possible, students should inform the instructor in advance. Repeated absences may affect grades. Students are responsible for all materials presented in classes. If they miss a class, they should contact classmates to

discover what was covered. Late arrivals and early departures are also discouraged. If possible, students should contact the instructor in advance if they are unable to stay for the full duration of the class.

Students may use laptops or notebooks for reading and taking notes. They will be expected to turn off all electronic devices that might distract other students.

Honor System

Students should acquaint themselves with Rice's honor system. Information on the system is available at http://students.rice.edu/students/Honor_System.aspLinks to an external site.. More detail on academic misconduct may be found under the "Academic Fraud and the Honor System" tab at http://honor.rice.edu/honor-system-handbook/Links to an external site.. If students have any questions about whether their work conforms to Rice policies, they should contact the instructor.

Disability Accommodations

Any student with a documented disability seeking academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All such discussions will remain as confidential as possible. Students with disabilities will need to also contact Disability Support Services in the Allen Center.

Course Materials

Note: additional online readings may be assigned. They will relate to late-breaking news in foreign policy that is pertinent to class discussions.

Required readings available for purchase online:

Richard Haass, A World in Disarray, New York: Penguin Random House, 2017. (Paperback)

Hal Brands, American Grand Strategy in the Age of Trump, Washington D.C.: Brookings Institution, 2018 (Paperback)

Week 1 A tutorial on how to write for policy-makers/US grand strategy

Reading:

William C. Martel, The Making of Future American Grand Strategy. The National Interest, January 27, 2015. Available here: https://nationalinterest.org/feature/the-making-future-american-grand-strategy-12126 (Links to an external site.)

Hal Brands, The Perils and Pitfalls of Grand Strategy. Strategic Studies Institute, August 2012. (PDF in pages.)

Jack Snyder, One World, Rival Theories. Foreign Policy, November-December, 2004. (PDF in pages.)

Michael Fuchs, America Doesn't Need a Grand Strategy. Foreign Policy, July 28, 2019. (PDF in pages.)

Week 2 Cold War and post-Cold War grand strategy

Readings:

Richard Haass, A World in Disarray. Pages 37-73.

Hal Brands, American Grand Strategy in the Age of Trump. Pages 1-48.

Graham Allison, The Myth of the Liberal World Order. Foreign Affairs, July-August 2018. (PDF in pages.)

Michael J. Mazarr, The Real History of the Liberal Order: Neither Myth Nor Accident. Foreign Affairs, August 8, 2018. (PDF in pages.)

Week 3 Obama/Trump

Readings:

Hal Brands, American Grand Strategy in the Age of Trump. Pages 49-78, 153-182.

Richard Haass, A World in Disarray. Pages 287-328.

Jeffrey Goldberg, The Obama Doctrine. The Atlantic, April 2016 . Available here: https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2016/04/the-obama-doctrine/471525/ (Links to an external site.)

Stephen M. Walt, The Tragedy of Trump's Foreign Policy. Foreign Policy, March 5, 2019. (PDF in pages.)

Robert D. Blackwill, Trump Deserves More Credit for His Foreign Policies. Foreign Policy, May 7, 2019. (PDF in pages.)

Week 4 Globalization

Readings:

Dani Rodrik, The inescapable trilemma of the world economy. Dani Rodrik's blog: June 27, 2007. Available at: http://rodrik.typepad.com/dani_rodriks_weblog/2007/06/the-inescapable.html (Links to an external site.)

Phil Levy, What Does Trump Really Want On Trade? It's Time To Take Him Literally. Forbes, July 23, 2018. Available at: https://www.forbes.com/sites/phillevy/2018/07/23/three-takes-on-trump-trade-policy/#6d4021c47ff1 (Links to an external site.)

Claire Felter and Danielle Renwick, The U.S. Immigration Debate. Council on Foreign Relations, July 2, 2018. Available at: https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/us-immigration-debate-0 (Links to an external site.)

Adam Posen, The Post-American World Economy: Globalization in the Trump Era. Foreign Affairs, March/April 2018. (PDF in pages.)

Week 5 Russia

Charles Haass, A World in Disarray. Pages 92-100.

Nikolas K. Gvosdev, Obama's Russia Policy: A Post Mortem and Lessons for the Next President. Harvard Kennedy School, October 26, 2016. Available here: https://www.russiamatters.org/analysis/obamas-russia-policy-post-mortem-and-lessons-next-president (Links to an external site.)

Joe Barnes, The Mideast, Russia & Obama's Legacy. Baker Institute, January 19, 2017. Available here: https://www.bakerinstitute.org/research/mideast-russia-obamas-legacy/ (Links to an external site.)

Benjamin Haddad and Alina Polyakova, Don't rehabilitate Obama on Russia. Brookings Institution: Monday, March 5, 2018. Available here: https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2018/03/05/dont-rehabilitate-obama-on-russia/ (Links to an external site.)

Dimitri Trenin, The Relationship between the USA and Russia in the Trump Era. Carnegie Moscow, May 17, 2019. Available here: https://carnegie.ru/2019/05/14/relationship-between-usa-and-russia-in-trump-era-pub-79119 (Links to an external site.)

Week 6 China

Richard Haass, A World in Disarray. Pages 215-224.

Graham Allison, The Thucydides Trap: Are the U.S. and China Headed for War? The Atlantic, September 24, 2015. Available here: https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/09/united-states-china-war-thucydides-trap/406756/ (Links to an external site.)

Richard C. Bush, The future of U.S.-China relations in light of domestic developments. Brookings, June 25, 2018. Available here: https://www.brookings.edu/on-the-record/the-future-of-u-s-china-relations-in-light-of-domestic-developments/ (Links to an external site.)

Michael E. O'Hanlon and James B. Steinberg, Can Donald Trump avoid a dangerous South China Sea showdown? Brookings, January 20, 2017. Available here: https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2017/01/20/can-donald-trump-avoid-a-dangerous-south-china-sea-showdown/ (Links to an external site.)

Michael Beckley, Balancing China: How the United States and Its Partners Can Check Chinese Naval Expansion. War on the Rocks, November 15, 2017. Available here:

https://warontherocks.com/2017/11/balancing-china-united-states-partners-can-check-chinese-naval-expansion/ (Links to an external site.)

Eleanor Albert, China's Big Bet on Soft Power. Council on Foreign Relations, February 9, 2018. Available here: https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/chinas-big-bet-soft-power (Links to an external site.)

Week 7 Group Presentations